



LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Commissioners Meeting
THURSDAY, February 21, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.

Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

6812 Brown Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

“The LLBMD seeks to promote environmentally conscious and fiscally responsible decisions by providing education, enhancing a healthy lake ecosystem and ensuring safe use of Lac LaBelle for today and tomorrow.”

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Paul Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present

Paul Carpenter
Dan Bauer
Karen Carr
Dave Falstad
Mike Fitzsimmons
Lou Morgan

Absent

Brian Wiemer

3. Comments from the Floor

There was no one present wishing to speak at this time.

4. Correspondence

Emails

Various emails from Kathy Buss, City of Oconomowoc, regarding lake levels:
(11/16, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 1/2, 1/11, 1/17, 2/6 and 2/18)

Various emails from Amy Kay regarding LLB 2013 Aquatic Plant Management presentation:
11/16, 1/11, 1/16 and 2/16)

November 26, 2012- Lisa Conley re: photos for LLBMD website

November 29, 2012 – Lisa Conley re: Annual Mtg talk

December 16, 2012 – Bill King re: lake level

December 17, 2012 – Michelle Hase, DNR re: LLB Lake Level survey

December 18, 2012 – Bill King re: LLB lake level photos

December 28, 2012 – Wisconsin Lakes re: eLake Letter about 2013 Public Policy Wish List

January 8 & January 17, 2013 – Anna Moyer, DNR re: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) re: Purple
Loosestrife

January 18, 2013 – Peter Carpenter re: LLBMD website update & maintenance

Various emails from Jeff Hermann, Town of Oconomowoc re: buoy placement:
(1/17, 1/23, 1/30, 2/11, 2/12 and 2/13)

P. Carpenter added the following two emails to the list of correspondence for this meeting:
February 6, 2013 – Bill Chapman re: buoy placement information
February 20, 2013 – Warden Kyle Drake of WiDNR regarding buoy placement information

P. Carpenter then questioned Mark Frye, City of Oconomowoc Public Works Director, about the new dam operations. M. Frye explained the operations were the same that they were prior to the new dam being installed. The current water level was approximately ten inches higher than the normal winter water level and was almost at summer water levels despite showing the exposed shorelines in correspondence photos. There was an Order in existence that determined the required lake water levels throughout the year. These levels were maintained according to the Order. The exception to this occurred in times of flooding when all stop logs in the dam were out. If the water was high when all the logs were out, then nothing further could be done. The dam could only do what it was designed to do. He further explained that there were only two to three days in past months at the winter water level, otherwise the level had remained higher. The dam was operating correctly. He had spoken with DNR Staff regarding resident concerns and he was required to stay within the water levels shown in the Order and the Staff continued to do that.

5. Approval of Minutes

D. Falstad moved to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2012 meeting as presented. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer's Report

M. Fitzsimmons reviewed the Treasurer's Reports for December, 2012, as well as January and February, 2013, noting there had been a donation to the Rock River Coalition requested since the last Commission meeting. Three years ago, a donation had been provided to this group as well.

M. Fitzsimmons moved to contribute \$50.00 to the Rock River Coalition in 2013. L. Morgan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

M. Fitzsimmons moved to approve the December, 2012 Treasurer's Report as presented. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Falstad moved to approve the January, 2013 Treasurer's Report as presented. D. Bauer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

With regard to the February report, the remainder of the levy proceeds had been received providing a slight increase in the cash balances to date. M. Fitzsimmons explained the earnings on the balances were abysmal and the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) continued to decline as well. In addition, the current money market account paid 0.01% in interest. He was aware that Town Bank had a six-month special on a money market that yielded 0.8% in interest for six months. He thought this might be worth considering for the next six months. This action would include drawing down the LGIP, closing the current money market account and taking the balance out of the checking account. He noted the LGIP could be drawn down to \$1.00 without penalty. He noted he was not aware of any higher rates anywhere else and most guaranteed short-term rates were similar to the LGIP and the current money

market rates.

D. Falstad moved to place the funds from the current money market account, Local Government Investment Pool and balance of the checking account into a six-month money market account with a yield of 0.8% as suggested. L. Morgan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Four were in favor. M. Fitzsimmons abstained. Motion carried.

K. Carr moved to approve the February, 2013 Treasurer's Report as presented. D. Falstad seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. Payment Authorizations

M. Fitzsimmons reviewed the three payment authorizations for the Commission.

L. Morgan moved to approve the Payment Authorizations for December 2012; January and February, 2013 as presented. D. Bauer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8. Presentation by Town of Oconomowoc Staff regarding Buoy Placement on Lac La Belle

P. Carpenter explained the history of this item as Town of Oconomowoc Staff members were not able to be present. He had contacted Warden Drake, of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, regarding buoy placement issues for Lac La Belle. He then reviewed the results of his discussion with Warden Drake, noting municipalities were not required by law to provide buoy coverage of the lake. Warden Drake also had indicated he did not have a map for buoy placement but would appreciate being informed of the current map locations if available from Town of Oconomowoc Staff. Discussion ensued.

M. Fitzsimmons stated he would recommend the District not be involved in the placement due to additional insurance issues. D. Bauer agreed with M. Fitzsimmons and questioned what efforts were made for buoy placement on other area lakes. P. Carpenter stated he did not receive a response from other lake management districts about this issue. K. Carr questioned whether the buoys were currently being placed in correct locations and she wondered how anyone would be aware of the correct locations.

P. Carpenter explained the District was being told that GPS coordinates were being used for placement by Town of Oconomowoc Staff. He noted the District's newsletter could assist in providing educational information about the buoys to residents. He also suggested a sub-group of the Commissioners meet with Town of Oconomowoc Staff regarding their issues of concern.

Discussion ensued regarding liability assumed if the District were involved in the buoy placement. M. Fitzsimmons expressed concern for being drawn into discussions of placement issues as the District did not carry the same types of insurance that municipalities did. D. Falstad agreed. Discussion further ensued regarding how the buoys were attached to the anchoring equipment and impacts of broken chains on the anchoring equipment. P. Carpenter stated it would be prudent to discuss the matter with Town of Oconomowoc Staff to determine what the issues of concern were at this point. M. Fitzsimmons stated he would attend a meeting with P. Carpenter on this topic.

9. Presentation by Anna Moyer of the Wisconsin DNR re: Invasive Species Management – Purple Loosestrife

P. Carpenter welcomed Anna Moyer, of the Wisconsin DNR, to the meeting. A. Moyer explained her role as an Outreach Specialist for the DNR, noting she frequently spoke to and trained various lake groups or service groups regarding DNR programs available for the management and potential control of invasive species. A complaint had been received from a resident regarding a dense stand of purple loosestrife, which was an invasive species, near Islanddale last fall. Because Lac La Belle was an active lake with other lakes near it, it was considered at high risk and protecting it from additional invasive species was important.

George Stumpf, Village of Lac La Belle Administrator, questioned whether the emphasis of the purple loosestrife removal was eradication or prevention. A. Moyer explained the purple loosestrife plants could be controlled. Prevention remained the most important goal in the existing dense stand of plants; however, eradication was easier when a new smaller population was located as it was smaller and cheaper to control. If the population found was not dense, appropriate herbicide could be applied and it could be dug out of the ground. This treatment process might need to be repeated over a few years in order to maintain control over it. Once there was a dense stand, like the one near Islanddale, then a biocontrol program was recommended. This type of program had been utilized in other parts of Wisconsin with success.

The program consisted of beetles grown to feed on purple loosestrife as larva and adults. This type of beetle feeds only on purple loosestrife and significant amounts of research had been conducted so that the beetle was not considered invasive to any other plants. The program had been used for the last ten years and was considered very successful, especially in southeastern Wisconsin. The process for raising the beetles was quite simple. She would conduct training with equipment supplied by the DNR to raise small amounts of purple loosestrife plants in a controlled environment that included a small tent structure to keep natural predators away. Then the DNR would provide the beetles to be introduced into the controlled plant environment. After the beetles were established, the plants and beetles would be placed in the local population and the beetles would continue to multiply to provide generations throughout the summer that would feast on the loosestrife. Each plant grown and released would provide 1,000 beetles to the stand. Beetles had the ability to fly up to ten miles before settling in on another stand of loosestrife. This process could take two or more years to get a reduction in a dense stand of purple loosestrife and would result in a suppression of plants, not a complete eradication. In this way, native plants could grow in the area again and then a smaller stand could be reduced using the herbicide.

P. Carpenter questioned how quickly purple loosestrife became invasive. A. Moyer stated any purple loosestrife was considered a problem as it grew faster than native plants and spreads quickly.

D. Bauer questioned whether herbicide could be applied to a dense stand of plant growth. A. Moyer stated water-safe herbicides did exist and could be applied in a timely manner depending on the plant's growth cycle. Purple Loosestrife grew from seeds and typically flowered mid-July through September of each year. Beetle nurseries would need to be set up in April.

G. Stumpf questioned whether other invasive species in Wisconsin lake areas, such as zebra mussels, could be eradicated as well. A. Moyer stated zebra mussels were here to stay; however, the best treatment with any invasive species was prevention.

A. Moyer also explained there was a program called Clean Boats, Clean Waters available to residents as well. This program provided watercraft inspectors, either through volunteer efforts or with a small stipend from the DNR grant program, that would be present at a boat launch to educate boaters about the need for removal of weeds from boats and trailers when pulling out of the lake. In addition, these inspectors also taught boaters about other invasive species carried through live wells or on boats, such as the Spiny Water Flea and Quagga mussels.

Citizen Lake Monitoring was a third program that was available through the DNR. In this program, training was provided to a volunteer resident that would look for specific invasive species and then map the growth or track the population with reports made to the DNR for inclusion in a database. Because of this program, many invasive species were caught early and were dealt with more effectively.

P. Carpenter thanked A. Moyer for attending the meeting on behalf of the Commissioners present.

10. Presentation by Amy Kay, Clean Lakes, Inc. re: 2013 Aquatic Plant Management Plans

Amy Kay of Clean Lakes, Inc. was present regarding potential plans for 2013 aquatic plant management. She explained the history of Clean Lakes, Inc., noting its successes with Eurasian milfoil through the use of best management practices and a technology called the LittLine that was developed by Clean Lakes, Inc. The LittLine was comprised of a chemical application made by Clean Lakes, Inc., that targeted types of aquatic plants based on their specific location in the water column located on the lake with the help of GPS equipment. A video demonstrating the methodology and application of the LittLine was then shared with the Commissioners. She explained past successes in treatment in northern Wisconsin noting eradication was not the goal but management and control of invasive aquatic plant materials were important and possible.

P. Carpenter thanked A. Kay for providing information and a presentation of available Clean Lakes, Inc. services this evening.

11. Update on Golf Course Creek

G. Stumpf provided an update on the land near Golf Course Creek and negotiations with the land owner in the area. He also noted there was consideration being given to working with the owners of the Golf Course near the Creek to allow placement of a catch basin near Lang Road that would allow the water to slow and infiltrate the ground prior to getting into the lake. Grants for associated projects were being extended to accommodate these options. More information would be available on these matters after April of this year.

12. Discuss & Act on potential land for sale north of Golf Course Creek

This item was not discussed as it was not needed at this time.

13. Discuss potential articles for Spring 2013 newsletter

Various topics were suggested by the Commissioners for inclusion in the Spring 2013 LLBMD newsletter. A draft Spring 2013 newsletter would be available at the next Commission meeting.

14. Updates on the LLBMD website

a. Topics for the website

S. Keefe of Accurate Business Communications, Inc. explained the changes to the LLBMD website since the last Commission meeting. Various topics were suggested by the Commission for inclusion on the website.

15. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting would be held on Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

16. Agenda Topics for Next Meeting

The following topics were suggested for inclusion at the next Commission meeting agenda:

- Discuss & Act on Annual Meeting date
- Update on Goose Roundup
- Discuss & Act on Draft Spring 2013 LLBMD Newsletter

17. Adjournment

M. Fitzsimmons moved to adjourn from the meeting. K. Carr seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.